



# FEBRUARY



# Black History

# MONTH

Issue  
**SIX**

February 2014

**State Offices will be closed  
February 17, 2014**

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### Meeting Place

February we celebrate Black History Month and reflect of African Americans that have made significant impact on our lives. Few are not the Nelson Mandela's or Martin Luther King, Jr. 's. The ones on the pages in the back of the book need recognized. Their accomplishments, feats of courage and display of heritage bring richness to the black culture.

Visit the BET website and to listen, read and remember other great moments. You will find a collection of "This Day in Black History" from 1920 to present. <http://www.bet.com>.

Who are Percy Julian, Mae Jemison, Patricia bath, Betty Harris and George Washington Carver? They all have one thing in common.

Florida Department of Education has gathered a list of suggested reading material for grades PreK through 12. Immerse yourself in a good book during the month of February to celebrate the Black culture. <http://www.justreadflorida.com/bhm.asp>



What's on the NDE homepage

Meet our new commissioner  
Dr. Matthew Blomstedt

<http://www.education.ne.gov/>

## 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act

## New Federal School Discipline Guidance Addresses Discrimination, Suspensions

—Evie Blad, *Education Week*

Leaders of the U.S. departments of Education and Justice have issued new guidance on how school leaders can ensure that discipline policies are drafted and applied in a manner that does not discriminate against racial or ethnic groups.

Leaders should also seek alternatives to "exclusionary" penalties like suspension and expulsion that rob students of valuable classroom time, often for nonviolent offenses, said U. S. Attorney General Eric Holder and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, who were scheduled to discuss the guidance at an event this morning at Frederick Douglass High School in Baltimore.

The new guidance clarifies how districts can meet their obligations under Title IV and Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, which relate to fair and nondiscriminatory treatment among schools and recipients of federal aid.

Read more at

[http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/rulesforenqagement/2014/01/new\\_federal\\_school\\_discipline\\_guidance\\_addresses\\_discrimination\\_suspensions.html](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/rulesforenqagement/2014/01/new_federal_school_discipline_guidance_addresses_discrimination_suspensions.html)



## Gaps Start With High School Opportunities

*EDUCATION NEWS*

In high school, students undertaking advanced computer science work remain overpoweringly white and male. Only a small percentage of the high schoolers taking the Advanced Placement Computer Science exam are women, according to data from the College Board compiled by Georgia Tech's Barbara Ericson. An even lower percentage of the test-takers are made up of Black and Latino students. In 2013, 18% of the students who took the exam were women, as shown by Ericson's analysis of the data. 4% were African-American while 8% were Hispanic. In contrast, African-Americans make up 14% of the school-age population in the U.S., while Latinos make up 22%.

As reported by Eleanor Barkhorn of The Atlantic, not a single member of one of these groups took the test last year in some states. In Mississippi or Montana, no women took it. No Hispanic students took the exam in 7 states: Mississippi, North Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, Kansas, Idaho and Alaska. Additionally, no black student took the test in 10 states: Maine, Idaho, Alaska, Kansas, **Nebraska**, North Dakota, New Mexico, Utah, Mississippi and Montana. - Read the full article at

<http://www.educationnews.org/technology/technologys-gender-and-race-gaps-start-with-high-school-opportunities/>



## 5 reasons schools hate snow days

1. Forecasts can be wrong
2. Parents hate snow days, too
3. Closures can be costly
4. Students could go hungry
5. Closing schools means less time to learn

[http://www.cnn.com/2014/02/05/living/school-closings-weather/index.html?hpt=hp\\_t2](http://www.cnn.com/2014/02/05/living/school-closings-weather/index.html?hpt=hp_t2)



**PBS. Education**

[PBS LearningMedia](#) is a FREE digital media content library designed to support curriculum-based teaching and learning from PreK through 12th grade. [Register today](#) to explore over 35,000 lesson plans, interactive games, primary sources, and videos from PBS and trusted media partners.  
<http://www.pbslearningmedia.org>



**Digital Resources**

Did you know that **PBS LearningMedia** puts over 600 FREE [lesson plans](#) at your fingertips? Just search by grade, subject, or keyword to uncover creative activities and new approaches to learning!

**[It Takes Courage to be Weak](#)**  
**Grades 9-12 | Lesson Plan | Civil Rights Movement**

Teach students about the philosophy of non-violence and the role of nonviolent protest in the Civil Rights Movement.

**[Flip It](#)**  
**Grades 5-13+ | Lesson Plan | Engineering Design**

Discover how PBS LearningMedia can help you "flip" your classroom and pick up tips for converting lesson plans into flipped classroom experiences.

**[Planning a Budget](#)**  
**Grades 3-5 | Lesson Plan | Finance & Budgeting**

Show students how important math skills are in the real-world by inviting them to follow Harry on a date! See how he manages his budget when an uninvited guest shows up.

**[Learn the Address](#)**

Watch as notable figures like Ken Burns, Gabby Gifford, and Stephen Colbert read from the Gettysburg Address and motivate students to explore the significance of this historic speech.



Available on iTunes. Produced by NET with partnership with VisionMaker Media  
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/standing-bears-footsteps/id759229133?ls=1&mt=11>

**A long road**  
150 years of collective experience  
from five African-American K-State Alumni

*"Part of the pioneering experience is sometimes being the first."*

*Announcing the premiere of a moving documentary highlighting the experiences of five African-American K-State icons*

**Online at [meac.org](http://meac.org)**  
**Release Date: February 1, 2014**

Available in chapters or entire documentary, along with downloadable lesson plans aligned to the common core.  
Available on the Midwest Equity Assistance Center website at [meac.org](http://meac.org)

This documentary was made possible by the support of the Faculty Incentive Grant from the Tilford Initiative at Kansas State University.

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY**

[www.meac.org](http://www.meac.org)

**Lessons of Our Land Curriculum Website**

Lessons of Our Land is designed to make it easy for Pre-K through Grade 12 teachers to incorporate Native American stories, lessons and games into regular classroom instruction. This interdisciplinary Indian land curriculum was designed to align with existing state standards and is adaptable to include the history and culture of a region's Indian nations. While Lessons of Our Land positions Native American tribal issues and values at the forefront, the curriculum emphasizes the fundamental relationship between land and people in general, not just Native Americans.  
<http://www.lessonsofourland.org/>



### Caring Institute: 2014 Caring Awards

The Caring Institute is now accepting nominations for its annual Caring Awards. Nominees should exemplify caring and serve as worthy role models for others. Award criteria include length of service, scope and impact of work, challenges overcome, and imagination and innovation. Maximum award: All winners are honored at a special ceremony, and young adult winners receive funds for college. Eligibility: individuals from nine to 99 years old. Deadline: March 1, 2014. <http://www.caring-institute.org/caringawards.html>

### Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes honors outstanding young leaders who have focused on helping their communities and fellow beings and/or on protecting the health and sustainability of the environment. Maximum award: \$2,500. Eligibility: youth 8-18. Deadline: April 15, 2014. <http://barronprize.org/>

### Ezra Jack Keats Foundation: Minigrants

The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation offers Minigrants to public and school libraries for programs that encourage literacy and creativity in children. Programs relating to the work of Ezra Jack Keats are welcome, but not required. Maximum award: \$500. Eligibility: public and school libraries. Deadline: March 15, 2014. <http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/how-to-apply-for-a-minigrant/>

### NAG wants to give away \$1000.

Yes.... \$1000 to a graduating high school Nebraska senior. The first Leta Hollingworth NAG Scholarship for a graduating Nebraska high school senior will be awarded May 2014. Application deadline is April 1. [Leta Hollingworth NAG Scholarship: http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1103840564246-111/Leta+Hollingworth+Scholarship2014.pdf](http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1103840564246-111/Leta+Hollingworth+Scholarship2014.pdf)

### Learn to Dream Scholarship Makes the DREAM Come True for Lincoln Seniors



A quality college education changes lives every day. It opens doors to a promising career and a fulfilling life many current high school students don't think is possible. For low-income students in Southeast Community College's 15-county district, the dream of a college education can be a reality through the exciting Learn to Dream Scholarship. The scholarship was established to create an opportunity for every economically disadvantaged high school student graduating from a public or private high school in SCC's 15-county district to further their education by attending SCC in Beatrice, Lincoln or Milford. Students are made aware of the Learn to Dream Scholarship opportunity beginning in the eighth grade. They work with their guidance counselor to take courses that will prepare them to become successful SCC students. It pays up to 45 credit hours or \$2,550 of tuition at one of the Southeast Community College Campuses, Lincoln, Beatrice or Milford.

Visit SCC today: <https://www.southeast.edu/LearnToDreamProgramInformation/>

### Read a success story of Izzy Iwanski in the Lincoln

**Journal Star.** [http://journalstar.com/news/local/education/learn-to-dream-scholarship-creates-opportunity/article\\_f33f4a87-642d-5e35-af4c-30f52ce500ba.html#.UvABICt3S2q\\_email](http://journalstar.com/news/local/education/learn-to-dream-scholarship-creates-opportunity/article_f33f4a87-642d-5e35-af4c-30f52ce500ba.html#.UvABICt3S2q_email)



eatocracy.cnn.com

Students who ate school breakfast attended an average of 1.5 more days of school than their meal-skipping peers, and their math scores averaged 17.5% higher. The report, which was funded in part by Kellogg's, went on to share that these students with increased attendance and scores were 20% more likely to continue on and graduate high school. High school graduates earn on average \$10,090 more annually than their non-diploma-holding counterparts and are significantly less likely to experience hunger in adulthood.

Read the full article and download the study at <http://eatocracy.cnn.com/2013/02/27/study-finds-school-breakfast-is-a-key-to-future-success/>

## STUDY FINDS SCHOOL BREAKFAST IS A KEY TO FUTURE SUCCESS





Native American  
Achievement Symposium  
October 6  
Wayne State College

Hispanic/Latino Summit  
October 20  
Cornhusker Hotel  
Lincoln



May 28-29  
Hastings Middle School  
<https://nmla.shutterfly.com>  
\$50 before March 31  
\$75 after March 31  
2 paid teachers=1 FREE administrators

### Community and Historical Trauma: Surviving and Recovery

February 20 3:00-4:30 p.m. CST

Region VIII Federal Partners  
Improving mental & Emotional Well-Being  
Visit their website to sign up and see additional webinars upcoming  
<http://www.colorado.feb.gov/index.php?content=82&page=NationalPreventionStrategy>

This webinar will provide a framework for understanding community and historical trauma, and key strategies for survival and recovery. The webinar will highlight American Indians, refugees, and those individuals and communities that have been impacted by community violence.

Webinar

### 2014 National Forum on Dropout Prevention for Native and Tribal Communities

April 27-30, 2014  
Prior Lake, Minnesota  
[www.dropoutprevention.org](http://www.dropoutprevention.org)

#### Call for Proposals

Deadline February 21  
Visit their website for registration and proposal submission guidelines

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